

REMARKS

According to the Restriction Requirement, there are two groups of claims: Group I includes claims 1-16 and Group II includes claims 17-31. Applicant elects to prosecute claims 1-16, with traverse. The Applicant has amended Group II independent claims 17, 23, 30 and 31 for clarification.

Specifically, the Restriction Requirement asserts that:

Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding technical features for the following reasons: the product claimed in Group II, claims 17-31 can be made without applying fluid heated to a temperature of at least 100°C. The product claimed in Group II, claims 17-31 can be made by applying hydrogen atoms proximate to the core directly.

Applicant contends that these grounds are inaccurate, since, for example, claim 17 claims a system that includes a heat source as a required element for the application of fluid heated to about 100°C. Independent claims 17, 23, 30 and 31 have been amended for clarification – and to further emphasize that the system claimed in these claims are configured to relocate atoms to the core from elsewhere in the fiber with a heated fluid – as required by the method of claims 1-16. For example claim 17 states (as amended):

1. A system for increasing the photosensitivity of hydrogen-loaded optical fibers having a cladding and a core, with at least some hydrogen atoms disposed distal to said core, the system comprising :

- A. at least one fiber holder configured for supporting at least one hydrogen-loaded optical fiber having a cladding and a core; and
- B. a high-temperature-burst source configured to direct at least one burst of a fluid heated to a temperature of at least about 100°C onto the at least one optical fiber when disposed within said at least one fiber support,

wherein application of the heated fluid to the at least one optical fiber causes a relocation of at least some the hydrogen atoms disposed distal to the core within the at least one optical fiber from the proximity of the cladding to the proximity of the core.

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Thus it is clear that the claimed system includes elements for relocating atoms to the core of the fiber using a fluid heated to at least about 100°C.

Accordingly, Applicant contends that the restriction requirement under is improper in the present application and requests its withdrawal. Please charge any additional fees which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1133.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any aspect of this application or this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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